

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 OPIC-03 LAB-04 AID-05

SIL-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OES-03 OMB-01

INT-05 /086 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

INFO DEPT OF TREASURY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

SECSTATE WASHDC 4007

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0539

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : OVIP (SIMON, WILLIAM E)

SUBJECT : DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ABOUT SIMON VISIT TO
UAE

1. I SAW FOREIGN MINISTER SUWAIDI EVENING OF FEBRUARY 29 FOR THOROUGH

REVIEW OF BOTH SUBSTANCE AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR SECRETARY'S VISIT.

2. SUWAIDI SAID HE WAS VERY HAPPY TO HEAR SECRETARY SIMON WAS COM-
ING AND ONLY REGRETTEED THAT IT WOULD BE SUCH SHORT VISIT. NEVER-
THELESS HE WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY FOR USEFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH
THE SECRETARY.

3. I REVIEWED FOR SUWAIDI MAIN SUBSTANTIVE AREAS THAT SECRETARY
WISHED TO TAKE UP. SUWAIDI MADE COMMENT THAT HE THOUGHT THIS WAS
GOOD GENERAL AGENDA. HE DID NOT HIMSELF PROPOSE TO RAISE ANY
POLITICAL ISSUES "SINCE WE KNOW WHERE EACH OF US STANDS" AND SINCE
HE THOUGHT THERE WAS PLENTY TO TALK ABOUT ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE. I
SAID I AGREED, AND BELIEVED SECRETARY TOO WOULD WISH TO CONCENTRATE
ON ECONOMIC MATTERS.

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4. SUWAID REACTED NEGATIVELY (APPARENTLY ON BASIS OF DRAFT JOINT STATEMENT SENT HIM BY AMBASSADOR GHUBBASH) TO IDEA OF AGREEING TO SET TRADE TARGET. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THIS WAS "MEANINGLESS" SINCE THERE WASN'T MUCH THAT EITHER GOVERNMENT COULD DO, AS HE SAW IT, TO REALIZE SUCH ARBITRARILY SELECTED GOAL. AS FOR HAVING SOMETHING ON THIS SUBJECT TO SAY IN PUBLIC STATEMENT, HE THOUGHT THIS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO EXPRESSION OF SATISFACTION AT THE WAY TRADE WAS DEVELOPING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

5. ON SUBJECT OF JOINT US-UAE EFFORTS TO ASSIST LDC'S SUWAIDI WAS MORE POSITIVE. HE WELCOMED IDEA OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS AGREEING IN PRINCIPLE TO WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER IN THIS FIELD, BUT DID NOT THINK

UAE WOULD BE PREPARED AT THIS TIME TO COMMIT ITSELF TO SPECIFIC SUM OF MONEY TO BE SET ASIDE FOR THIS PURPOSE. HE ASKED THAT I MEET WITH HIS DEPUTY, SAIF GHUBBASH TO WORK OUT LANGUAGE ALONG THESE LINES THAT COULD BE USED IN EITHER JOINT STATEMENT OR DEPARTURE STATEMENT BY SECRETARY.

6. ON UAE INVESTMENT POLICIES, I SAID I BELIEVED SECRETARY WOULD LIKE TO GET INTO REAL DIALOGUE WITH UAE ON THIS SUBJECT AND I HOPED UAE SIDE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO FRANK DISCUSSION OF ITS INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES, ANY PROBLEMS IT FORESAW, ETC. SUWAIDI SAID HE THOUGHT THIS WAS ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE AND HE WOULD WELCOME THOROUGH-GOING DISCUSSION OF THIS TOPIC.

7. ON US-PROVIDED REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL SERVICES, I TOLD FOREIGN MINISTER I THOUGHT THIS HAD ALREADY PROVED TO BE ONE OF THE MOST PROMISING AREAS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN US, AND SECRETARY WOULD WISH TO EXPLORE WITH SHAIKH ZAYED AND HIS MINISTERS POSSIBILITIES FOR MAJOR EXPANSION IN THIS FIELD. I SAID WE HOPED THAT BOTH HE AND SHAIKH ZAYED WOULD GIVE SOME THOUGHT IN ADVANCE OF SECRETARY'S VISIT AS TO WHERE US TECHNICAL SERVICES MIGHT BE APPLIED MOST USEFULLY TO UAE'S DEVELOPMENT. TWO IDEAS THAT HAD OCCURRED TO ME WERE FIRST, COMPREHENSIVE WATER RESOURCES SURVEY FOR THE UAE, WHICH STRUCK ME AS A BASIC ANALYTICAL TOOL TO ALL OF UAE'S DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, AND SECONDLY, POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING EXPERTS TO HELP THE UAE TO SET UP THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR COMPETENT PLANNING. IMPORTANT THING, I SAID, WAS FOR UAE LEADERSHIP TO BEGIN THINKING ABOUT ITS OWN NEEDS SO THAT WE COULD TAKE MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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SECRETARY'S VISIT TO IDENTIFY FEASIBLE AREAS OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION

SUWAIDI WELCOMED DISCUSSION THIS TOPIC BUT DID NOT ADVANCE ANY SPECIFIC IDEAS. I INFORMED HIM OF ARRIVAL OF BERGER TEAM IMMEDIATELY AFTER SECRETARY'S VISIT AND LEFT HIM LETTER DESCRIBING BERGER TEAM COMPOSITION AND OBJECTIVES.

8. FOREIGN MINISTER AGREED WITH MY VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE

BEST TO TRY TO HAVE ONE SESSION WITH ALL MINISTERS ASSEMBLED RATHER THAN PARCEL DISCUSSIONS UP INTO SEVERAL MEETINGS. BESIDES HIMSELF, HE SUGGESTED SHAIKH HAMDAN MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF PETROLEUM OTAIBA, MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCIAL AFFAIRS HABROUSH, AND POSSIBLY SHAIKH SOROOR. HE DID NOT MENTION ANY OF UAE'S FOREIGN ADVISORS. I QUERIED FOREIGN MINISTER ABOUT PRESENCE SHAIKH HAMDAN, SAYING I WAS SURE SECRETARY WOULD NOT WANT DISCUSSION ON, FOR EXAMPLE, ABU DHABI INVESTMENT PLANS. TO BE INHIBITED BECAUSE OF PRESENCE OF NON-BU DHABIAN. SUWAIDI SAID NOT TO WORRY ABOUT THAT. "WE ARE ALL ONE GOVERNMENT, AND WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING IN THESE DISCUSSIONS WE WANT TO HIDE FROM SHAIKH HAMDAN."

9. WITH RESPECT TO STATEMENT AT END OF VISIT, SUWAIDI SEEMED TO THINK UNILATERAL STATEMENT BY SECRETARY MIGHT BE BEST, BUT HE WAS NOT SPECIFIC AND ASKED ME TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH GHUBBASH.

10. COMMENT: I AM NOT PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH PROSPECT OF SHAIKH HAMDAN BEING PRESENT AT MEETINGS. HE IS NOT A HEAVY-WEIGHT IN THIS GOVERNMENT BUT HE DOES HAVE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND IT WILL BE ALL TO THE GOOD TO HAVE HIM HEAR WHAT SECRETARY SIMON HAS TO SAY. HE WILL ALSO UNDOUBTEDLY GIVE HIS FATHER SHAIKH RASHED AN ACCOUNT OF DISCUSSIONS, AN ADVANTAGE FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW SINCE WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND SOME OF THINGS WE ARE DOING IN ABU DHABI TO DUBAI. INCIDENTALLY, PARTY SHOULD KEEP IT IN MIND THAT SHAIKH HAMDAN, AS SON OF RULER OF DUBAI, OUTRANKS ALL NON-SHAIKHLY MINISTERS, SPECIFICALLY SUWAIDI, OTAIBA, AND HABROUSH.

11. BELIEVE ARRANGEMENTS, WHICH WILL BE SUBJECT SEPTELS, ARE WORKING OUT WELL, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE VISIT. HARRASSED AS THEY ARE BY OTHER PREOCCUPATIONS, UAE LEADERSHIP WILL, WE BELIEVE, PLUG IN TO GIVE ITS FULL ATTENTION TO SECRETARY WHEN THE DAY ARRIVES. I HAVE ASKED FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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APPOINTMENT WITH GHUBBASH TO SETTLE FINAL DETAILS AND TO WORK OUT SOME KIND OF PUBLIC STATEMENT. ON LATTER, I WILL EXPLORE POSSIBILITY JOINT STATEMENT, BUT IF UAEG PROPOSES TO DO TOO MUCH TAMPERING WITH LANGUAGE WE WANT I WILL DROP IDEA AND SUGGEST SECRETARY MAKE DEPARTURE STATEMENT ON HIS OWN.

12. UNDERSTAND SECRETARY IS AN AVID TENNIS PLAYER. I PROPOSE WE GET SOME EXERCISE AFTER LUNCH WITH GAME OF MEN'S DOUBLES. I WILL RESERVE COURT AT CLUB. BESIDES SECRETARY AND MYSELF, CAN PARTY PRODUCE TWO MORE PLAYERS OF COMPARABLE STANDARD? IF NOT, LET ME KNOW AND WE CAN ARRANGE FOR SOME LOCAL PLAYERS TO JOIN US. STERNER

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